

Message Text

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43

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SUBJ: PRESS REPORT: U.S. MILITARY REDUCTIONS IN THAILAND

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY NATION EDITOR SUTHICHA YOUNG APPEARED
FEB. 20 EDITION OF THAI-LANGUAGE PRACHACHAT.

2. BEGIN TEXT. VAGUE STATEMENTS, AMBIGUOUS STATEMENTS, STATEMENTS
WHICH ARE PARTIALLY TRUE, AND THE CONCEALMENT OF IMPORTANT
DETAILS ALL ARE NOW BEING THE CAUSE OF CONTRIVANCE
AGAINST THE TRUE MEANING OF THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT THAT THERE
WILL BE A "TOTAL" WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS FROM THAILAND
BY MARCH 20, 1976. PARA THERE ARE MANY ACTIVITIES GLOSSING OVER
GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS, BOTH THOSE MADE BY GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND
THOSE MADE BY THE ARMED FORCES SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS,
WHICH MAKE THOSE STATEMENTS NOT AS SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD
AS THE GOVERNMENT WANTS THE THAI PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND. PARA
INFORMATION FROM SEVERAL SOURCES CONFIRMS THAT THE WITHDRAWAL
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OF AMERICAN TROOPS BY MARCH 20 WILL NOT BE " TOTAL" AS STATED

BY THIS GOVERNMENT WHEN IT MADE THE POLICY STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT BEFORE THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE WAS MADE FOR IT TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY'S AFFAIRS. PARA HIGH-LEVEL AMERICAN OFFICIALS SECRETLY INFORMED AN AMERICAN NEWSMAN IN BANGKOK RECENTLY: "IF YOU WON'T PUBLISH IT, LET ME TELL YOU THAT WE'LL HAVE SOME 3,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS LEFT AFTER MARCH 20, AND THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY AGREED ON THIS POINT. BUT, OF COURSE, THIS IS A PERIOD OF A GENERAL ELECTION. THE VERBAL AGREEMENT MAY BE CHANGED. HOWEVER, UNTIL TODAY WE STILL WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN EFFECT EVEN AFTER THE APRIL 4 ELECTION." PARA THE HASTY ACTIVITIES INSIDE AND AROUND UTAPAO AIRFIELD OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS ARE AN INDICATION THAT SOME 1,500 AMERICAN SOLDIERS (WHETHER AIRMEN OR NAVY MEN) WILL REMAIN THERE AFTER THE "DEADLINE" FIXED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT. THIS GROUP OF SOLDIERS (WHETHER OR NOT IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES) WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT DUTY, I.E., MAKING RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS FROM UTAPAO OVER THE DIEGO GARCIA ISLAND AREA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, A SPOT IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS BUILDING UP ITS NAVAL FORCE TO CONTAIN THE RUSSIANS. PARA ABOUT 500 OTHER AMERICAN SOLDIERS TO REMAIN AT UTAPAO ARE OFFICIALS TRANSFERRED FROM CAMP RAMASUN AND THOSE FROM THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER FORMERLY AT UDORN AND NAKHON PHANOM. PARA ANOTHER 1,000 MEN ARE OFFICIALS WHO CALL THEMSELVES (OR WHO WANT OTHERS TO CALL THEM) "ADVISORS" INCLUDING THOSE WORKING AT JUSMAG OR SECRET OFFICIALS IN THE GUISE OF ADVISORS AND CIA OFFICIALS WHO SEEK TO KNOW THE SECRETS OF BOTH THAILAND AND THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES CHIEFLY FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT. PARA WHETHER THAI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OR THAI MILITARY OFFICERS ARE FEIGNING IGNORANCE OR WHETHER THEY REALLY DO NOT KNOW, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS INSISTED THAT HIGH-POWERED EQUIPMENT PLACED HIGGLEDY-PIGGLEDY AT UDORN AIR BASE AND NEARBY AREAS AND USED FOR INTERCEPTING SECRET MESSAGES FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES (INCLUDING CHINA AND NORTH VIETNAM) WILL REMAIN IN THAILAND AND WILL DEFINITELY BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS. PARA SOME THAI MILITARY DIGNITARIES HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS CLAMPLY BUT THEY DO NOT REVEAL IT TO THE PEOPLE. THEY MERELY TRY TO EMPHASIZE THE WITHDRAWAL OF A NUMBER OF AMERICAN TROOPS, DISTORTING THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THE AMERICAN FORCES IN THAILAND WILL END

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AFTER MARCH 20. PARA THE EMPHASIS THAT THE AMERICAN "COMBAT FORCES" WILL BE TOTALLY WITHDRAWN IN THE JOINT STATEMENT OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BANGKOK IS ONLY AN ILLUSION WITH FIGURES AND EVASIVE WORDS, AIMING AT COMBAT FORCES OTHER AMERICAN UNITS, WHICH OPERATE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE THAI PEOPLE, ALSO EXIST SCATTERED AT SEVERAL SPOTS IN THIS COUNTRY, AND THEIR PRESENCE AFFECTS, DISPARAGES AND VIOLATES THAILAND'S SOVEREIGNTY WITH NO

REGARD FOR THE REACTIONS OF THAI PEOPLE. PARA THE
REMAINING AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN THE GUISE OF "CARETAKERS" OF
THE RADAR AND INTELLIGENCE EQUIPMENT CAN CONVERT THEMSELVES
INTO A COMBAT FORCE AT ANY TIME, AND THIS IS TO BE REGARDED
AS A EFFORT TO EVADE THE WISH OF THE THAI PEOPLE THAT ALL
FOREIGN SOLDIERS, IN WHATEVER FORM, GET OUT OF THIS COUNTRY
IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY. PARA WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER
CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN WENT TO SALUTE HENRY KISSINGER IN
WASHINGTON LAST NOVEMBER, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE TWO PERSONS
DISCUSSED AN AGREEMENT FOR THE "FIELD RESEARCH" UNIT TO
REMAIN REGARDLESS OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE TOTAL WITHDRAWAL.
PARA WORSE THAN THAT, IT SEEMS THERE HAVE BEEN UNOFFICIAL
NOGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND SOME THAI
MILITARY OFFICERS CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW
THE U.S. TO RETURN TO USE THAI BASES FOR COMBAT PURPOSES
AGAIN "IN CASE OF NECESSITY," WHICH CANNOT BE INTERPRETED
TO MEAN ANYTHING ELSE BUT THAT THE U.S. FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT
THAILAND'S SOVEREIGNTY IS AT ITS FINGERTIPS, PARA AS FOR ITS
BARGAINING POWER, WASHINGTON ALWAYS FEELS IT IS AT AN
ADVANTAGE BECAUSE ALL THE THAI GOVERNMENTS IN THE PAST ALWAYS
SOUGHT TO DEPEND ON THE U.S. FOR HELP. PARA AND WHEN FOREIGN
MINISTER CHATCHAI WENT TO MEET WITH HENRY KISSINGER IN
WASHINGTON, WITHOUT SHAME HE BEGAN TO BEG FOR HELP, THUS HAVING
A GOOD CHANCE FOR KISSINGER TO PROPOSE THE INDEFINITELY
CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AMERICAN FORCES IN THAILAND. PARA
HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONCEAL THIS FACT
FROM THE THAI PEOPLE. THE DANGER OF ALLOWING FOREIGNERS TO
INTERFERE AND EXERCISE WPOWER OVER THE THAI PEOPLE IS SO GREAT
THAT THE THAIS CANNOT AFFORD TO ALLOW ANY SECRET AGREEMENT
OR ANY DISTORTION OF THE FACT. PARA INFORMATION OBTAINED
FROM VARIOUS INDEPENDENT SOURCES CLEARLY INDICATES THAT NOT
ONLY ARE THAI OFFICIAL STATEMENTS UNBELIEVEABLE, BUT THEY
ALSO INDICATE SOME THAI GROUPS ARE IN SECRET COOPERATION
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WITH THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO GAIN PERSONAL BENEFIT
AND POLITICAL PWOER, THUS UNFORGIVEABLY DISPARAGING THE
DIGNITY OF THAILAND. PARA IF THE THAI GOVERNMENT FAILS TO
REVEAL ALL THE FACTS TO THE PEOPLE IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER
AND TO STOP DOING ANYTHING IRRESPONSIBLY BEHIND THE PEOPLE,
THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO DECLARING WAR AGAINST THE THAI PEOPLE
WHO ARE READY TO RISE UP TO DEAL WITH THOSE MALIGNANCIES BY
THEMSELVES. END TEXT
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